

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of August 19, 2015.

Board members present were Christopher Tonkin, Ron Sender, Doug Greenfield, Scott Smith, Stephan Miller and Jack Johnson. Phil Goff was absent. Also in attendance were Joey Glushko, Steven Quinn, Officer Alex Stotik, Maggie Stanley, and Rod Holland.

*The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm.

Introductions were made all around.

*The minutes for the May meeting were accepted after some corrections were made.

COBWEB officer, introductions and comments. Officer Stotik implored us to take safety seriously. We are often on our bikes so we should explain to scofflaws that cyclists need to follow the law. He especially wanted us to be aware of reprimanding people who ride the wrong way on one-way streets. Some of us told anecdotes about people misbehaving on bicycles. Christopher asked once again how we should approach educating cyclists. Ron thought we should do it, as much as possible, through the schools. Maggie suggested that we find kids that could be ambassadors for our point of view. Officer Stotik will contact the resource officer at the High School to try to get communication started. Maggie brought up starting some kind of program at the Boys and Girls club. Joey will contact them. Scott would like to see some parental education to which Joey added that an article in the Advocate could reach that audience.

Scott brought up the hazards of big trucks. Stephan asked about side guards and why they are not required in this state. Jack told us that side guards are required for garbage trucks in Cambridge. We decided that we could start in Arlington and bring the idea of side guards on town trucks to the Board of Selectmen (BoS). Scott will research the use of truck side guards. Joey volunteered Phil (who was not present) to work up a letter to the BoS.

*A motion was made in support of writing a letter from ABAC in support of the Vulnerable Road Users Bill currently being considered by the Legislature.

TAC report. What happened to the CLAMP project? Joey told us that construction should start in September. Scott added that The Roadway Design Guidelines were approved by the Board of Selectmen (BoS) and the Lake St./Bikeway intersection is still being analyzed.

Town Day (September 12). Jack and Christopher went to Quad Cycles to arrange the purchase of taillights for ABAC to sell at Town Day. They also showed us a flyer describing the light. Jack thought that we should buy a case (18) and see if we can sell them. Quad will take back the unsold lights. Joey urged us to check about how to pay the sales tax. Scott interjected that this is an opportunity for education so we should hand out a safety flier with the lights. Joey reminded us that we have a whole

case of tax bill inserts outlining nighttime safety tips that we can hand out. Rod told us that MassBike has a very nice safety handout that we could distribute. Joey asked if a representative from Breakstone, White and Gluck, the law firm that has been donating helmets for children, could join us for Town Day. We all were happy to have them join us. Ron and Stephan volunteered to make a safety poster for the booth.

Other topics.

Event Usage Guidelines. Joey told us that she has been in touch with the Town Manager (TM). He would like to come to the next meeting to help us complete the Guidelines. She also informed us that it has now been established that the Bikeway is under his jurisdiction.

Bikeway signage. Joey told us that all three communities should be working together for a signage model. Lexington hired Toole Design to design the signs. Arlington now has allocated a small amount of money so that we can participate in this program which will, hopefully, make the design uniform in the two towns. This program is for design only and does not include implementation. We will also discuss this program with the TM next month.

Railroad history signage. Joey told us that she got a call from the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy informing us that there is a program for making signs focusing on the railroad history of rail-trails that have been inducted into the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame. They will pay for three informational signs to be posted on the Bikeway. We need to decide where to put the sign that will be in Arlington. Joey suggested somewhere in the Uncle Sam Park. Jack suggested that we get the Friends of the Bedford Rail Depot involved, since they are interested in railroad history.

Ban bicycles in Spy Pond Park. We briefly discussed the request from the Friends of Spy Pond Park to ban bicycles from the park. It was our consensus at our June meeting that bicycles should not be banned but should be required to moderate their speed in the park. We are still happy with this recommendation.

Bicycle Friendly Community reapplication. We will ask the TM whether the town wants us to reapply for BFC status. ABAC would like to reapply. We don't want our designation to lapse. Jack will lead this effort.

Rod told us that, during the last Bikeway counts, he made a note of group size. The majority of the people on the path were in groups. We discussed the implications of the use of the Bikeway by groups of people either on bicycles or on foot.

*The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller